

**"YOUR PROSTATE GLAND"—Letters from a Surgeon to his Father.** By Reed M. Nesbit, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School, Chief, Section on Urology, University Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1950. 50 pages. \$2.00.

This little volume (50 pages) consists entirely of a series of seven unedited personal letters written by one of our prominent urologists explaining to his own father the problem of "prostate trouble" in the elderly male. The text is accompanied by several simple outline drawings of an explanatory nature. The book is by no means a complete exposition of prostatic disease, for the author limits himself entirely to the obstructive phenomena and their relief especially by operation. It is simply and accurately written, in a form that will appeal to the lay reader psychologically, and warns the father (and hence the reader) against any attempt at self-diagnosis and self-treatment. He is advised to consult and be guided by his physician.

Dr. Nesbit is one of the country's outstanding proponents of the transurethral resection of the prostate, and the author of an excellent book on the technique of the operation. Hence, despite his effort to be fair in his discussion of the other methods of prostatectomy, his personal preference is evident. The book is designed to be read primarily by men interested in or already suffering from prostatism, who will doubtless be influenced, whether wisely or otherwise, in favor of the transurethral technique, even though he does discuss the possible limitations of the operation. He considers the perineal approach applicable only for limited special indications, an attitude with which some of his friends will not entirely agree.

The urologist who personally favors the suprapubic method, or especially transurethral resection, can profitably recommend this little monograph to his elderly patients, especially to those who are prospective candidates for prostatic surgery. Since it is such a small volume its value might even be increased if it could be published in a paper-bound edition for gratuitous distribution to such patients.

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**PATHOLOGIC PHYSIOLOGY: MECHANISMS OF DISEASE.** Edited by William A. Sodeman, M.D., F.A.C.P., The William Henderson Professor of the Prevention of Tropical and Semi-Tropical Diseases, Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$11.50.

This volume is a collaboration by 25 authors on disturbances in the structural and physiological pathology of the various organ systems of the body. It endeavors to bridge the gap between texts of physiology and medicine by presenting a clinical picture of disease seen as physiological dysfunction. An attempt is made to explain how and why symptoms appear, so that the student or physician may have a rational interpretation of his findings.

In general the contents are clearly presented. The concepts are modern, sometimes original, practically always in keeping with accepted recent investigation. There are a commendable number of clarifying diagrams and charts. An up-to-date bibliography is published at the end of each section. The general makeup and the printing are good. Comprehension of the book will give the student and practitioner a measure of understanding of the principles underlying disease states in the body.

An interesting comparison may be noted between this book and Best and Taylor's "Physiological Basis of Medical Practice." The latter, which covers similar territory (though in more inclusive manner) is written by physiologists who approach the clinical from the basic science point of view. "Pathologic Physiology," on the other hand, is written by clinicians, each of whom has explored the basic science aspect of his subject.

**THE URINARY FUNCTION OF THE KIDNEY.** By A. V. Wolf, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physiology, Albany Medical College, Union University. Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1950. \$7.50.

This splendid book, by an active physiologist who has himself made important contributions to the subject, discusses renal function from the standpoint of regulation of the organism's internal environment rather than from the currently fashionable concept of clearances (although the latter are not ignored). The chapters are concerned with water balance and fluid transfer, regulation of body volume, body water compartments, hydration and dehydration, diuresis and diuretics, antidiuresis and antidiuretics, the endocrines in urinary function, the clearance concept, renal osmotic work, urinary specific gravity, and tests of renal function. The approach is scholarly and thorough.

The average physician will be disconcerted by the mathematics and by the use of unfamiliar words and phrases such as "minimal isorrheic concentration." It would indeed be unfortunate if he were thus driven away from these pages, for in them is a wealth of material applicable to the problems of edema and of states with depletions of water or electrolytes. The book is highly recommended for all medical libraries and students, physiologists and pharmacologists, as well as to those clinicians interested in abnormal accumulations or losses of body fluids.

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**THE COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES—A HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND POSTGRADUATES.** By H. Stanley Banks, M.A., M.D. (Glas.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Physician-Superintendent, Park Hospital, Hither Green, London. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$4.50.

This small volume is a most scholarly review of common communicable diseases. The fact that it was published in 1949 is little drawback to its usefulness. Only the most recent advances in antibiotic therapy are lacking (and what textbook can keep abreast of antibiotic therapy?)

The author's experience as director of large isolation hospitals in England for more than 20 years is reflected in his discussion of pathology and of differential diagnosis. Among specific topics which are examined in detail are the intensive intravenous antitoxin treatment of hypertoxic diphtheria, the cerebral and adrenal pathologic changes in meningococcal infections, and the dangers of atelectasis and subsequent bronchiectasis in whooping cough. The completeness of this little book is attested to by inclusion of such subjects as infectious mononucleosis, infectious lymphocytosis, erythema infectiosum, and the congenital defects of infants resulting from maternal rubella. The chapter on infectious diarrheas of infancy is excellent.

This book is recommended to general practitioners, internists and pediatricians.

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**LANGUAGE FOR THE PRESCHOOL DEAF CHILD.** By Grace Harris Lassman, Teacher of the Deaf; formerly Instructor of Speech, John Tracy Clinic, Los Angeles. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1950. \$5.50.

An excellent guide for the parents of a deaf child. Such parents face a tremendous adjustment and need help which all too often the doctor does not give them. Even otologists often fail to put the problem in the proper perspective and seldom can give practical advice in the training of a deaf child. This book is arranged for the parent, with step-by-step instructions, illustrations, and examples of home training exercises and methods, but it should be read by doctors as well, for a better appreciation of the problem. The excellent bibliography of 223 titles includes almost all of the important articles with a bearing on training the deaf child.